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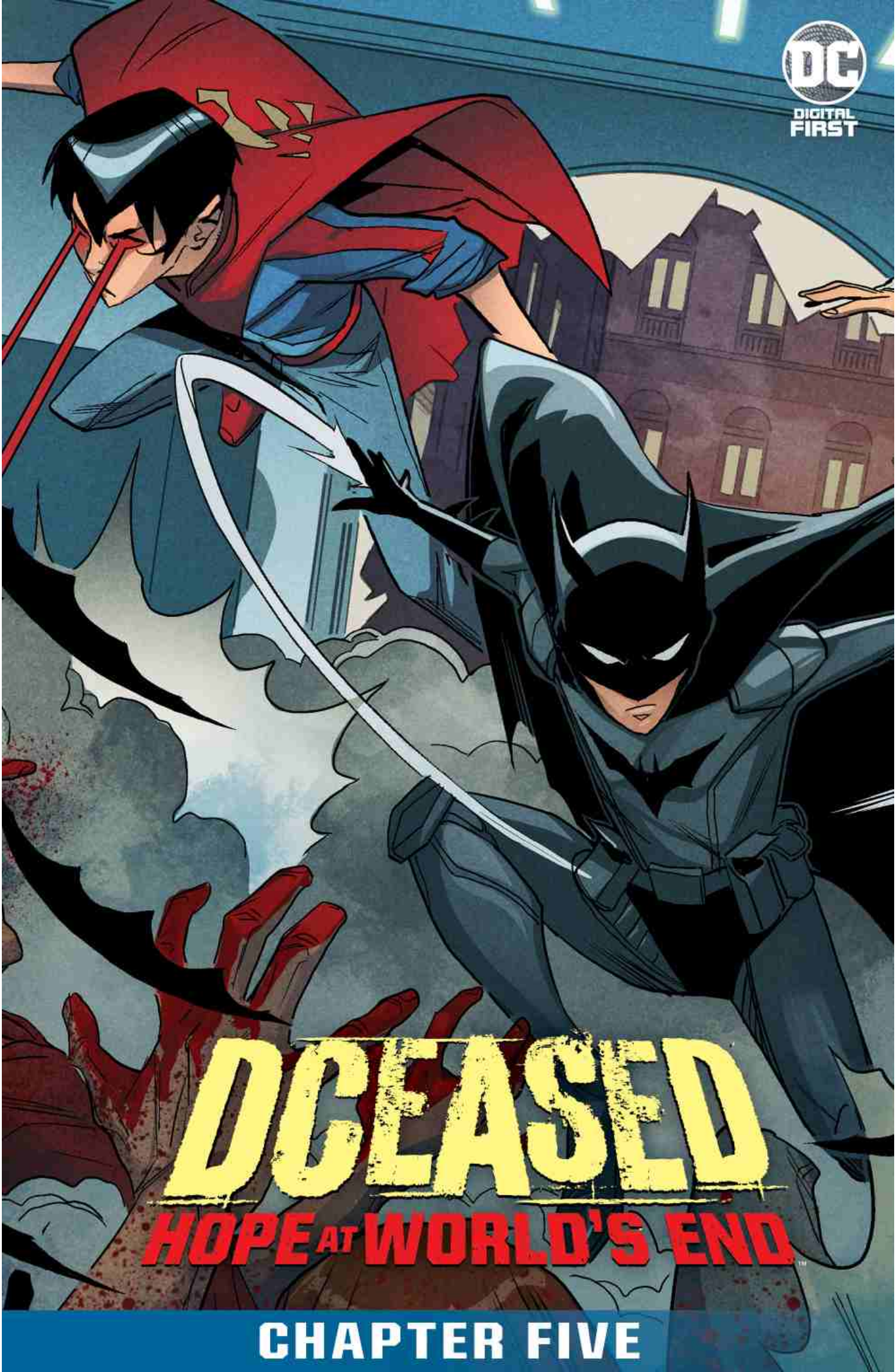
DC
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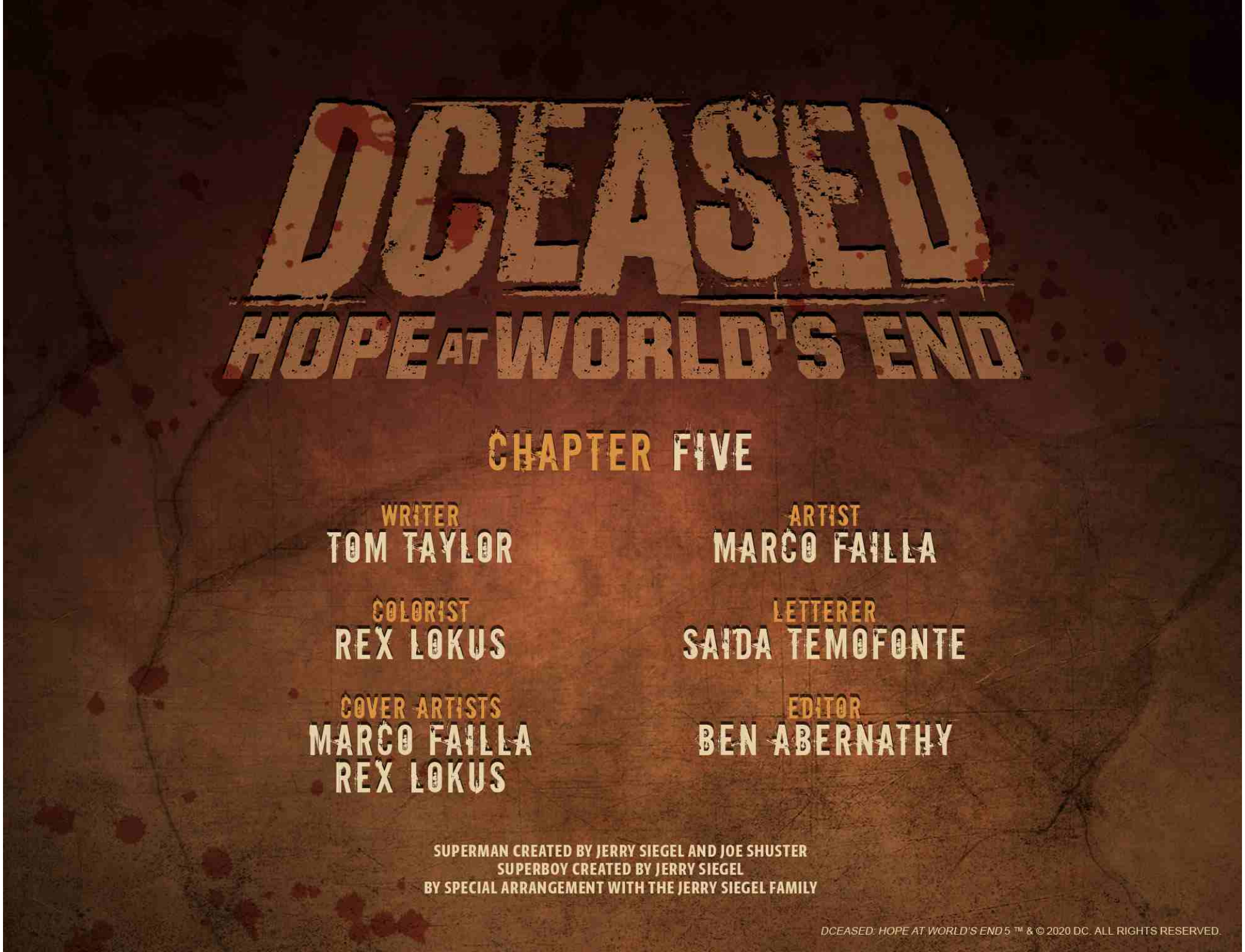
CHAPTER FIVE



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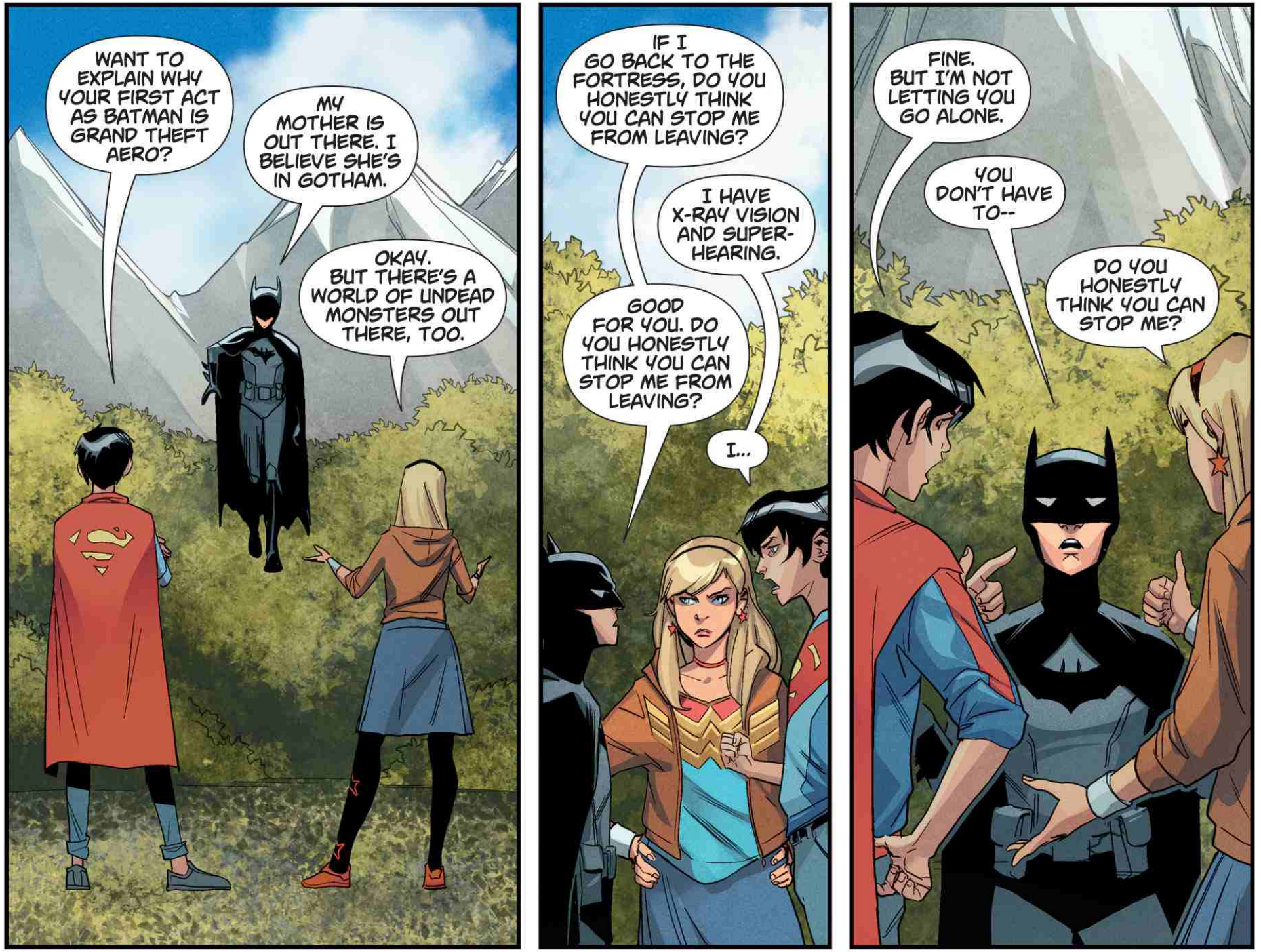
THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE.
JON. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
HEY, CASSIE.
MY DAD AND I WERE SEVERING INTERNET CABLES OFF THE COAST OF IRELAND.
IT'S GONE NOW. THE INTERNET IS DOWN, PERMANENTLY.
I'M GONNA MISS IT... NOT THE BIT THAT TURNS PEOPLE INTO AGENTS OF DEATH, OBVIOUSLY.
SURE. LOOK, I'M NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO TELL YOU THIS...
...BUT I'M PRETTY SURE DAMIAN JUST STOLE THE INVISIBLE JET.

YOU KNOW, THE PROBLEM WITH STEALING AN INVISIBLE JET--?
IT'S YOUR VISIBLE... NESS.
TAKE IT DOWN, DAMIAN.


WANT TO EXPLAIN WHY YOUR FIRST ACT AS BATMAN IS GRAND THEFT AERO?
MY MOTHER IS OUT THERE. I BELIEVE SHE'S IN GOTHAM.
OKAY. BUT THERE'S A WORLD OF UNDEAD MONSTERS OUT THERE, TOO.
IF I GO BACK TO THE FORTRESS, DO YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU CAN STOP ME FROM LEAVING?
I HAVE X-RAY VISION AND SUPER-HEARING.
GOOD FOR YOU. DO YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU CAN STOP ME FROM LEAVING?
I...
FINE. BUT I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO ALONE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO--
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU CAN STOP ME?

GOTHAM.
I KNOW MY MOTHER WAS IN GOTHAM. BATMAN AND I WERE KEEPING TABS ON HER BEFORE--
INCOMING!

HRRR.
THUD
UNDEAD KITE MAN?
SQUEEEEEE
EEEEEE

THAT WAS...
HEH.
AH HA HA HA HA!

WHY WERE YOU KEEPING TABS ON YOUR MOTHER?
SHE WAS COMING WITH ASSASSINS TO KILL GOTHAM'S MAYOR. MY FATHER AND I WERE ALREADY ON THEIR TRAIL.
WE NEED TO REMEMBER TO WASH THE KITE MAN BITS OFF THE PLANE BEFORE WE GIVE IT BACK TO WONDER WOMAN.
I'VE MISSED SOMETHING, HAVEN'T I?
MY MOTHER IS TALIA AL GHUL. DAUGHTER OF RA'S, THE DEMON'S HEAD, LEADER OF THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS.
IT'S KIND OF A SORE SUBJECT. PLEASE DON'T MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT.

THIS IS THEIR MAIN SAFE HOUSE.
HOW IS GOTHAM BANK A LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS SAFE HOUSE?
GOTHAM BANK
BECAUSE MY GRANDFATHER OWNS IT.

THAT'S... A LOT OF UNDEAD.
IF SHE'S ALIVE, MY MOTHER WILL BE IN THE PANIC ROOM, UNDER THE VAULT.
YOU STAY BACK AND WE'LL CLEAR--
SHNG
BOOM
BOOM
HE'S KIND OF, INFURIATINGLY, LIVING UP TO THAT COSTUME, ISN'T HE?
HE REALLY IS.
COME ON.

I CAN'T SEE THROUGH THAT WALL.
OF COURSE NOT. IT WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A SAFE HOUSE FOR ASSASSINS IF SUPERMAN COULD JUST PEEK IN.
DO YOU THINK SHE'S IN THERE?
LET'S FIND OUT.
CRUNCH

HELLO, DAMIAN.
MS. AL GHUL. WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOU.
FROM THE PILE OF MONSTERS I'VE MURDERED?
UH... YES?
SHUNK

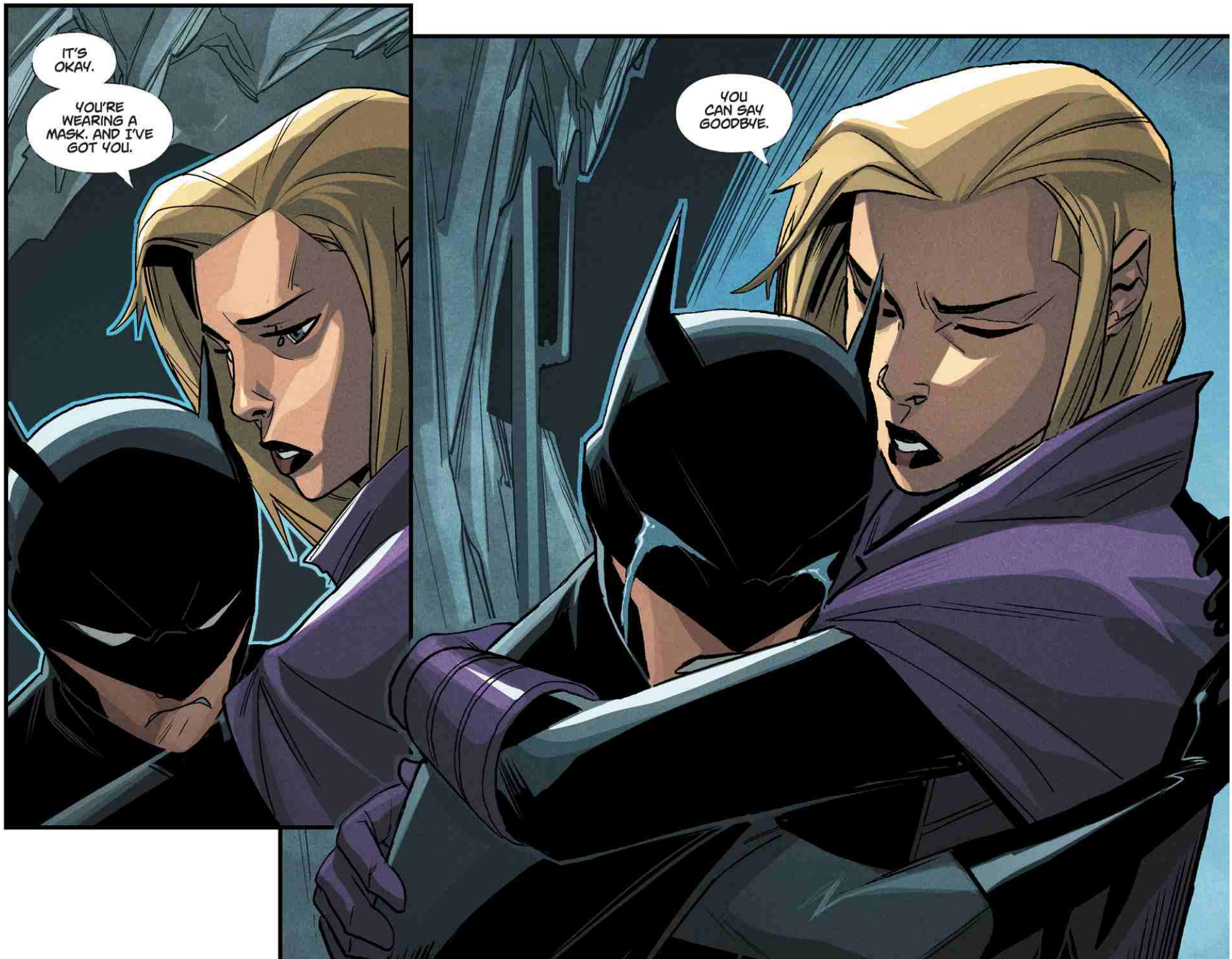
DAMIAN, WHAT ARE YOU WEARING AND WHY IS THIS ONE WITH YOU?
BECAUSE I'M HIS BEST FRIEND.
IS HE?
YES.
HE SEEMS SO... INNOCENT.
NO. I SUPPOSE NOT. A SHAME.
WE CAN'T ALL BE RAISED BY ASSASSINS, MOTHER.
IT'S REALLY NOT.

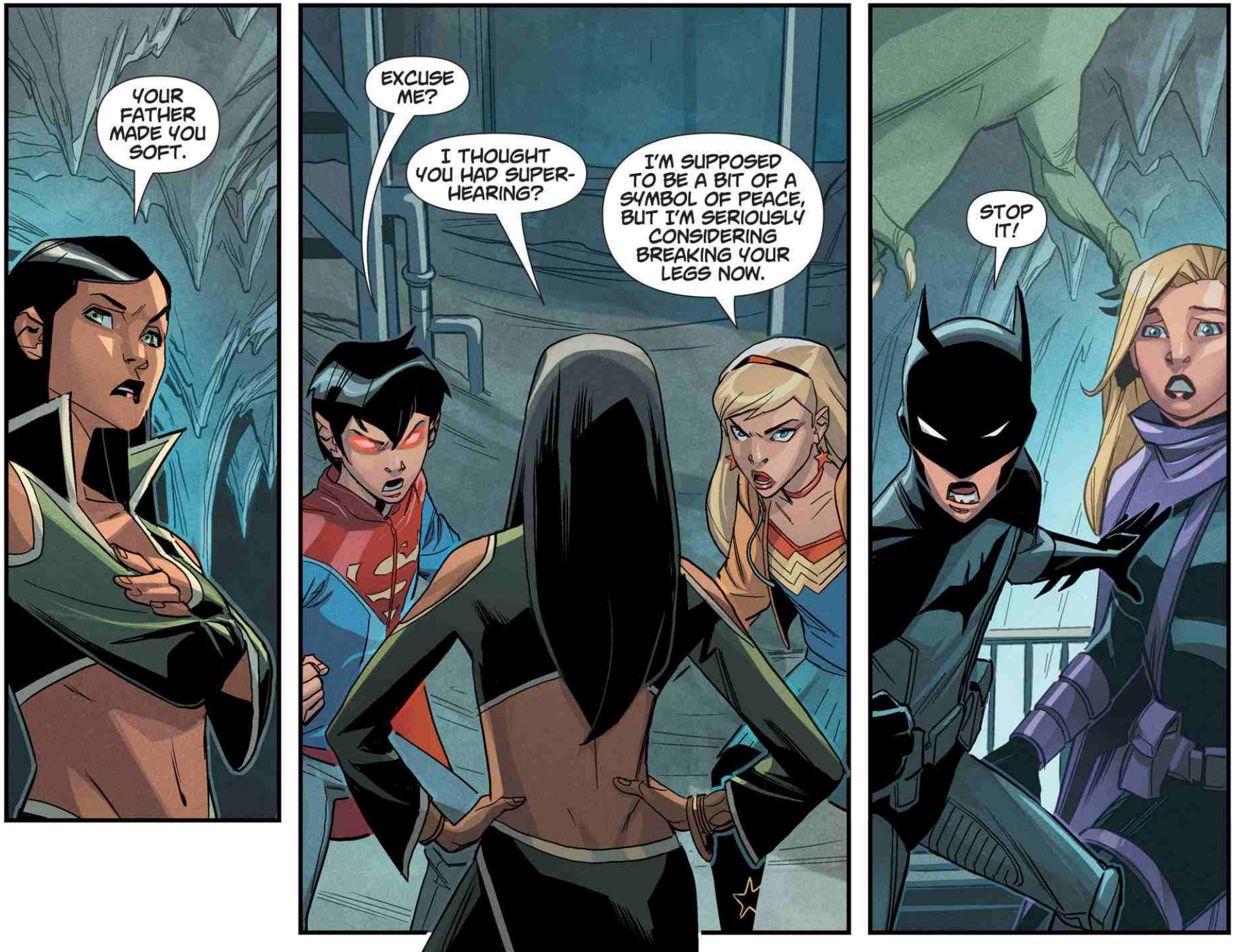
AND WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT?
YOU KNOW WHY.
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
I WAS... GOING TO GO SEE HIM.
YOU CAN COME... IF YOU'D LIKE.
I HAVE AN INVISIBLE JET PARKED ON THE ROOF.
IT...UH... HAS A FEW BITS OF KITE MAN ON IT.

THE BATCAVE.
WHO BURIED THEM?
JASON TODD.
HOW DO YOU...?

I RECOGNIZE THE SENTIMENT.
DICK GRAYSON
BROTHER
NIGHTWING
THE ONE WHO
GOT TO GROW UP
BRUCE WAYNE
FATHER
MENTOR
BASTARD
BATMAN
TIM DRAKE
FRIEND
ROBIN
THE BEST
OF US
YOU GONNA BE OKAY?
THERE'S SOMEONE HERE.
BEHIND THE DINOSAUR.

HI.
STEPH?
I...I WAS HOPING I'D FIND BATMAN.
IT LOOKS LIKE I FOUND HIM.
DAMIAN...
...I'M SO SORRY.


IT'S OKAY.
YOU'RE WEARING A MASK. AND I'VE GOT YOU.
YOU CAN SAY GOODBYE.


YOUR FATHER MADE YOU SOFT.
EXCUSE ME?
I THOUGHT YOU HAD SUPER-HEARING?
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A BIT OF A SYMBOL OF PEACE, BUT I'M SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING BREAKING YOUR LEGS NOW.
STOP IT!

MY MOTHER LOVED BRUCE. SHE'S JUST TRYING TO START A FIGHT.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT HERE. WE SHOULD GET BACK TO THE FORTRESS.
HOLD UP!
IF YOU'RE BATMAN, YOU NEED WHAT BATMAN HAS ALWAYS NEEDED, SO HE ISN'T REDUCED TO A MUSCLED BAG OF REPRESSED FEELINGS IN KEVLAR...
...YOU NEED A ROBIN.
NEXT: THE SIEGE OF JOTUNHEIM!

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